

That Which is Claimed

1. A system for distributing music to customer households, comprising:

5                   a data transmission system blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to customer households in digital form;

                  a user station at each of a plurality of customer households, the user station including;

10                  means permitting the customer household to preselect desired transmitted music selections for recording;

                  a receiver and associated high capacity storage medium for recording preselected music selections in digital form;

15                  an audio output for outputting audio signals from the storage medium to a playback device so that the customer household may playback those recorded music selections it wishes to enjoy;

20                  a central controller system having a database for storing therein an address corresponding to each customer household;

                  a communications link between each customer household and the central controller system to verify to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill customer households for music selections that are made available for playback.

2. A method of distributing music to customer households comprising the steps of:

blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to customer households by direct broadcast satellite (DBS) at data transmission rates faster than real time;

providing each customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;

permitting each customer household to preselect and record desired music selections on a high capacity storage medium;

permitting each customer household to playback recorded music selections;

communicating music playback information from each customer household to a central controller system; and

billing customer households for the recorded music selections that are made available for playback.